



The Viet Nam Triple Deuce, Inc.

An Association of 2 Bn. (Mech)

22nd Infantry Regiment

Viet Nam Veterans

Together Then.....Together Again!.....

Thanks for Being There...&...Welcome Home



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Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Editor's Comment	2
Another Great Reunion	5
Thanks and Welcome Home	5
Distinguished Members Award	6
Thanks Brothers	6
2/22 at the Wall	7
Inside Track	8
Burt, My Remembrance	10
5/27/68 My Memory	12
Non Scientific Value	12
Oregon Memorial Day	13
Died at Home	14
New Finds	15
Guest Book Hits	16
Hellos & Comments	16
Business Meeting minutes	19
Merchandise Information	20

President's Message

Hello,
Well we've had a bit of time to absorb & reflect on our experiences at the Washington D.C. reunion, and I'd like to offer the following thoughts....

Those of you who could not attend this reunion missed a dandy for sure. I'm really sorry that you couldn't make it, but know that you were all thought of on a daily basis, and missed by your Brothers. This one had one of the largest groups of first timers I've seen. And I think every one of them made some statement about not ever missing another one. Look into Seattle in 18 months, and start your savings program NOW. We have a couple of great assistance programs for those who may need them. PLEASE look into them. It's time...

Twenty four hours is just not enough hours in a day. I ran on 4-5 hours sleep a night, and still feel very shorted in time spent with our group. Most of that shortage was my own doing, but my position as Prez of the Vietnam Triple Deuce demands that I help put these parties on when I can. And I didn't do a hat full compared to the Skip's and Martin's and Cindy's. They were champions at this one, and are probably just now catching up on their rest. I apologize for not making more time to catch up on you and your life and thoughts, but pledge to keep the communication lines between us busy till we can sit across a table from each other again. You're my other "family" and to us country bumpkins that's very important.

Washington D.C. is a lot different than I had pictured it. Thankfully the architects that designed the many national shrines we saw have included much more green than I had envisioned before this trip.

Editors Dan & Vera Streit D 2/22 1969
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Mario Salazar HHC 2/22 65-67

There are mountains of granite, marble, and concrete, but everywhere a meadow, tree or bush could be put there are lots of them. I'm going back when I can to see the rest at a slower pace. It is beautiful.

The numbers of WWII vets in the 22nd IRS is dwindling, but the memories of those who have attended reunions, and the indomitable spirits of those who still do is an inspiration to all of the rest of us. The "Greatest Generation" is very well named. Thank you, gentlemen.

The guys on the Board of VN222 are one hell of a team when we get together. I am honored to be a part of this bunch, and think that the best is still to come. This is my last term, and I want to fill it up with whatever you think will serve the organization long into the future. Limber-up those typing fingers and start telling me & the rest of us your ideas for making the best Vet organization around. It's not our organization-it's yours.

One of our first priorities is to get Skip and the 22nd IRS to reword that "double deucer" thing in a way that will help eliminate the confusion of paying separate dues to the two organizations. Double deucer simply means that you are volunteering to pay \$22 to join the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society-\$10 for dues, and \$12 for donation to the many good things 22nd IRS does. The Vietnam Triple Deuce is a completely separate organization with \$15 annual dues, no life-time membership available. We are looking at a ten year membership proposal, which would offer a discount for the longer term commitment. We'll keep you posted on this one.

The scientists who claim there can be no such thing as a perpetual motion machine have obviously never met Jim May. I meant to check with Gail to see if he slept at all in D.C. He just never slowed down, and he and Dan Streit set a standard in quartermaster sales of shirts, caps and such that may never be broken. This outfit is blessed to have this Tasmanian Devil with a heart as big as it is fast. Thanks Buddy, one more time.

To get the full feel of what these reunions mean, talk to any of the families of Brothers who have passed on, but are represented by siblings, widows, and children or nieces and nephews at these reunions. This

is a true definition of several really good things like love, devotion, and tradition, and we are blessed by their presence. Like I said---Family.

To you old salts who are vets of several reunions. Awb once said one of the greatest truths-"If we all bring one to a reunion, we're instantly twice as big." That's the challenge. Are you up to it? Feel free to count one of those guys who haven't been to a reunion for several turns as part of the group we want to see in Seattle. Ft. Lewis was the last place the three battalions were part of the same group as I'm told. Wouldn't it be great to re-assemble them in the fall of next year for the first time in 40 years? Let's do it.

Have a great, safe summer

Dick Nash, A Co,HHC 1969



Triple deuce President **Dick Nash** with the Distinguished Member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment award that he had just received during ceremonies at the Washington D.C. Reunion

Seattle
Fall 2009

Editor's Comment

The reunion in Washington DC is now just a memory. For those who were able to attend it was an awesome experience. In this column I will attempt to recreate some of the excitement. For those who were unable to attend, you were missed. I will attempt to share some of the "high spots"

The planning of the event was aptly handled by the 22nd IRS President Skip Fabel, He recognized Ivan Young (my brother-in-law) for assisting with the on site needs. The work of registration takes place before hand. Martin Oekhlaus, as 22 IRS Treasurer, was in charge of collecting money, making sure everyone received the correct tickets to all events and conveying, messages from those also registered. As the photo shows, the support of his wife, Cindy, was essential to the successful implementation of this facet of the reunion.



A cheerful greeting from the Oekhlauses

At the Triple Deuce business meeting all officers were re-elected. The officers are **Dick Nash**, President, Board; A, HHC Co. 69, **Lynn Dalpez**, Vice-Pres. Board, C Co. 65 to 67, **Joe Esser**, Officer, Secretary, A Co. 69 to 70, **Jim May**, Board, Treasurer, Prov. Co. 68, **Lon Oakley**, officer, Chief Locator, A Co. 69; **Jim Nelson**, Board, C Co. 67 to 68; **Dan Streit**, Board and Newsletter Editor, D Co. 69, **Mario Salaziar**, Web Site, HHC 65 to 69,

Reports of the Ladies Breakfast were that the food was excellent and the conversations were intriguing.

The Hospitality Suite was well stocked. The seating was comfortable. This lent itself to one of the major purposes of our reunions. . . .reminiscing and brotherhood. The room(s) were open long hours. Pictures and memories were shared. It was in this room that



Jim May striking a bargain with Lynn Dalpez

organizational merchandise was sold. Bus load after bus load of veterans and guests unloaded at the Vietnam Memorial for a truly inspirational service. We found the National Park service description to be totally true. The monument was designed with four stipulations

That it be reflective and contemplative

That it harmonize with its surroundings

That it contain the names of all who died or remain missing

That it make no political statement.

The active duty soldiers presented the colors and placed a wreath then unit by unit the guidons were carried in by a company representative with a following of company members and guests. Small regimental flags with identifying labels were placed by the panels bearing the names of all the 22nd Infantry Regiment's 835 KIAs. After spending time at the Wall grieving, praying, reminiscing crying etc. some moved on the bronze statue of the three Vietnam Veterans. Many were touched by the human like appeal. . .from the weapons they carried to the far away look on their faces. Others moved to the Women's Memorial to honor the thousands who served behind the scenes in Vietnam.



Mad Doc relaxing under a tree at the mall while the group was assembling for the memorial ser-



vice. It was a hot humid Washington D. C. day Triple Deucers, both active duty and Vietnam era, assembled with company guidons, the colors and a wreath to honor fallen comrades.

The sheer numbers of the veterans visiting the wall, the cooperation of the National Park service and the respect/curiosity of other park visitors made the event even more memorable. Spectators stood back, saluted the flag, and asked many questions



The widow, Ruth Crocker, grieves the fallen hero.



The next generation embraces the sacrifice. Note the small flags in memory of the those killed in action place during the ceremony.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in solemn meditation/prayer, embracing Brothers, and touring other monuments within proximity. .. Still others sat contemplatively on the park bench drinking ice water. It was a deeply moving experience for all of the vets and loved ones in attendance.

The carving of the Hemingway Turkey was per tradition. The food at the following Italian buffet was good. Distinguished Member and Honorary Member recipients were recognized.

The banquet once again featured good food and fellowship. The raffle raised some needed funds and resulted in many happy gift recipients. Prior to the meeting "The Empty Chair" was read.

The reunion closed with the Memorial Service. Again Steve Russell led the singing. Ken "Lumpy" Schulte had an inspirational reading titled "A Soldier Died Today". Chaplin Jim Tobin shared some provocative thoughts in his message. Skip Fahel had a Power Point presentation listing all the Regiment's KIAs from World War II onward to include those who have recently been lost in Afghanistan and Iraq. During the scrolling of names the names of those known to the group were verbalized.



Always part of the group, the active duty soldiers helped clean the hospitality suite while veterans used various means of transportation to head toward their respective homes.

And now it is time to start planning our time together in Seattle. (Lynn Dalpez said he looking at the 3rd week in Sept. 09 as the reunion date.) At least that's how it seems to me.

Dan Streit D/69

Another Great Reunion!

To be able to share the time with such good men is a pleasure. I have now been to 3 reunions and each seems to be a step up from the last. I know it comes from knowing each person a little better and meeting the new guys. As I watched my friends from 40 years ago attend for the first time, I could see their faces showing what I experienced on my first reunion. The initial thought is 'what the hell am I getting into and do I really want to do it?' After recognition and reunion with someone the thought changes to 'where did these emotions inside me come from?'. By the second day the warm feeling of brotherhood is developing and the by the second evening the emotions start pouring out. When you wake the morning of the third day you want to get with the guys again as early as you can and the feelings are more of being relaxed and being with good friends. The last day you realize how close all have become and the travel home is done with warmness inside of you.

And for any of you thinking of assisting in the location of our men, the thank you received from both the men and their wives is wonderful. Knowing that your telephone call made such a positive difference in their life makes you feel that all your efforts are worthwhile.

And now we are looking forward to the next one.

Dean Springer
B Co. 67-68

THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL "WELCOME HOME"

As Chief Locator for Triple Deuce it has been my pleasure to work with some guys the past couple of years that did a bang up job (along with great work by so many others) of finding our BROTHERS. The biggest reward for all of us in the efforts was getting so many first timers to D.C. Did you notice all the

BLUE RIBBON FIRST TIMERS.?

Washington D.C. How could this not have been a wonderful experience and a truly a most deserved "WELCOME HOME" at the Wall for us Viet Vets? I will never forget the people stopping on the narrow Wall walkway to let us take our group pictures and say "TAKE AS LONG AS YOU NEED...YOU DESERVE IT," or the Pentagon military guys doing their noon PT and saluting us as they went by. How about our guidon bearers carrying Triple Deuce flags all day long along the Washington Mall? OUTSTANDING publicity and they generated so many young people stopping to ask questions. **What a blessing and renewal in my spirit of what Americans are all about...despite what the evening news tells us.**

So hats off and big thanks to Triple Deuce Locators, Board and to everyone else for going the extra mile to get our BROTHERS TO THE WALL! Your efforts do not go unappreciated and as Dick Nash put it, "we may have doubled in size of membership but there are still so many of our Viet Nam vets (1/22 and 3/22 included of course!) who need that **WELCOME HOME BROTHER!**" It's on our website...hit it and use it please.

NOTE: Dick Nash's "third herd" guys also have an **"ADOPT A COMPANY"** effort going to sponsor 1/22 and 2/22 units forward in Iraq an Afghanistan to send things they need. LTC Matt Elledge of 1/22 is already establishing points of contact for me and I am awaiting word for 2/22 commander. If you want to help just let me know and Dick, Lumpy, Joe Esser, Poluka, Al Bridges, Doc, Larry Gallagher or I'll get you into the net with a company commander of 1/22 or 2/22. Our guys forward need to know we "know what it means to serve!"

LON OAKLEY A/69

Distinguished Members of the Vietnam Triple Deuce Awarded

The Distinguished Members of The Vietnam Triple Deuce were recognized at the Business meeting during the DC Reunion. Those presented with this award were **Bill Allison, John Eberwine, Skip Fahel, Mike Groves, Gary Hartt, Brad Hull, Norm Nishikubo, Awb Norris, Bob Price** and **Dean**

Springer.

The award reads: This designation is made in recognition of his valor and devotion to his Brothers in Arms while on active duty with the 2nd Battalion (MECH), 22nd Infantry Regiment, Republic of Vietnam. And with gratitude for his unselfish and tireless efforts in supporting his Veteran Brothers. These efforts and activities have been and continue to be fundamental to the development and success of the Organization.

These awards, many of them long overdue, were presented to recognize those who have been instrumental in the success of The Vietnam Triple Deuce and as special thanks for all the tireless efforts that make the organization a success.

My personal congratulations are again extended to the recipients. I consider myself very fortunate to be among such fine and dedicated men.

Jim May Prov. Co. 1968

Thank you, Brothers

To my brothers of the Vietnam Triple Deuce, I want to express my deep appreciation for receiving the distinction of Distinguished Member of the Vietnam Triple Deuce. It was my honor to serve with many of you in Vietnam, and to work with you since becoming a member of the VN Triple Deuce.

This honor is special because it recognizes both my service with the Triple Deuces in Vietnam and my efforts since I first discovered the Triple Deuce existed in 1999. Since my first reunion in 2000, it has been a rewarding experience working with my brothers of the Triple Deuce.

Again, thank you.

E. Q. Skip Fahel B/67-68

Deeds Not Words

Vietnam Triple Deuce at the Wall

The Washington, DC Reunion, Friday, May 2, 2008 was the culmination of a day that I've been waiting for since May 1996; when I started on a mission.

The mission was.....to find as many Triple Deucers who served in Vietnam as I could. In April 1996, at MY FIRST REUNION, **Bill Allison**, my Captain in Vietnam in September 1967, gave me 3 rosters that he had saved all those long years; almost 30 years in fact. These rosters put real names, and social security or service numbers, to the faces.

How many times, over 25+ years, had I thought of Herb, or Don, or Red, or Preacher, or Billy Bob, or Chief, or Jerry, or Tex or Slim; without actually knowing their last names or even where they came from in the world, or where to begin looking.

The rosters, from Bill, were like the flood gates opening on a dam; through many long hours on the computer, pouring over telephone and address records for many cities, making long distance phone calls, mailing postcards saying, "Were you There?". I would find one or two men; they would know of one or two more, and before I knew it, we had our first 100 found. Then others started finding men and became "locators"; and on and on it still goes, to this day. I believe over 800 of our brothers have been located to date.

I can still remember the first time I said to someone on the phone, "Thanks for Being There and Welcome Home!" I could hear the tears in their voice. I would get so excited to find someone for another guy, that I'd hook up a three way conference call, just so they could talk together for the first time in many a year. What a joy!

But, back to May 2, 2008 at the wall. Arriving at the Wall by bus, surrounded by our loved ones and old friends; the day was so beautiful, blue skies with some clouds and maybe even a little muggy, but altogether, a fantastic day to visit with our friends WHO LIVE on the other side of the wall. To finally say hello, it's been so long, we've missed you!

When I placed my hand on certain panels, I could feel a connection to those who made that journey over 38+ years ago. They have been waiting for us to join them in a celebration of their lives, short though they may have been; what heroes they were, who fell on those far away shores. They were men.....in boy's bodies; they were the best men this country had to offer. Only the best served; the rest---well they found ways to not go!

I said hello to Jackie, Dennis, Jack, Dave, John, Ronnie, Freddy, and Preacher. These were those men that I was closest to in Nam; I also walked the entire wall and I said hello to the rest of the 848 men, from the 22nd Regiment, who gave their lives, who each had a flag placed at their panel. These men know freedom.....isn't FREE!

Today, our man/boys are fighting again, in more far away places, on distant shores, and there are so very many, in this country, who do not know why they are there. We know! They are there for each other, just as we were there for each other. Doing what we felt was right! Doing what others would not do, but what we knew was right!

Together Then.....Together Again.....Thanks For Being There, And Welcome Home!

"How many times we must have thought....dying was the easy part, it's living.....that hurts so much! But live we must, for without us keeping them in our hearts and prayers, they would exist no more!"

"Sometimes, in my very, very rare, but very deep and troublesome periods, I wonder, if it isn't those who have made the supreme sacrifice, who will sleep soundly and peacefully, for eternity, while the rest of us will always feel the tearing at the heart and hear the whispering in the mind."

John Eberwine C/67-68

*Business meeting Minutes are just in.
See page 19. Thanks, Joe, for the speedy
job.*

The Inside Track

The Kool-Aid Kid

22nd I.R.S. Reunion, Washington DC, 2008

The 22nd IRS Washington DC Reunion pegged my Wow-O-Meter. I have so many highlights I could fill a newsletter myself. Neither I, nor my traveling companion and former Squad Brother, **Steve Cowlthorp**, had ever been to Washington DC before, so, everything we saw was a fulfillment of our childhood dreams of actually being in our nations capitol and seeing all those fabulous sites first hand. Steve and I live in the greater Portland OR area which is so far away from DC that we both figured we probably would never get there. But we did! A short list of highlights for me follows.

The Wall. Words won't work for me. You know, you were there too. Steve and I went to see it early in our trip for a personal experience before we all went together as veterans of the 22nd Infantry Regiment. I had seen the Traveling Wall before, which brought me to my knees, but seeing the real deal with our Fallen Brothers names before us was beyond my ability to describe. The hand of God was present, as were those Brothers and Sisters listed there. I will be there again one day, that promise I made to myself.

Seeing the T-Rex fossil, **WHEW!!!!** I think a LAW could have taken him out, but I would rather have faced it with .50 and a full belt of armor piercing ammo. That was the first thing that Steve and I wanted to see. We deadheaded right for the beast the very first thing fulfilling a major childhood dream of ours.

When a sharp looking full bird, **Colonel Greg Julian**, came up to us while we were visiting The Wall asking if any of us served with his father, the commander of the Triple Deuce at the Battle of Soui Tre. Holy cow! Talk about a small world! Greg was seven years old when we got on the USNS Nelson M. Walker with his dad, then **Lt. Col. Ralph Julian**. Greg remembered us clearly when we did our final pass and review on the Fort Lewis parade ground. We wined and dined Greg and his beautiful wife at the banquet and learned that Greg has stood in front of his father at the position of attention of a sol-

dier many times himself. Hahahaha! I'll bet!

When I first stood in front of the Declaration of Independence I was very surprised that chills ran up my spine as I realized that the old, very faded, document is so very important to me--what that very piece of paper started our freedom. Knee knock'n.

I had the honor of placing 1st.Lt. John E. Warren's (C/2/22, 68-69) mini-guidon by the beautiful wreath that the 22nd IRS placed at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. We had about 450 people march (sort of) by the monument and place mini 22nd Inf. guidons, close to 900 of them, by the names of our regimental fallen Brothers of the Vietnam War. Lt. Warren's guidon bears an additional marker on it besides his name. It says: **Medal of Honor**.

Being re-elected as a Board Member of The Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc. to a third term, and then being voted in by the Board as your Vice President, for a third term as well. In fact, all former Directors were unanimously voted back into their current positions after a member interrupted the proceedings that **Dick Nash**, the President, was leading, by making a motion to keep the current Board as is, it was 2nd, then all members in attendance voted "aye", stunning President Nash who asked, "Can they do that?", and sure enough, they can, and did. That vote of confidence is certainly appreciated. Thank you, members.

To my personal Combat Brothers, their wives, and my many new friends, their wives, and all members in attendance, it was great being with you again. I won't list you all here because the list has grown quite long over the years. For that, I am so very appreciative. To be allowed in your lives is the highest honor I could ever hope for.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was the last visit that Steve and I made before catching the plane home. We saw a wreath laying ceremony by the Guards, and a Changing of the Guard ceremony. As with most other things we saw and did, this one moved me more towards God and Country than I thought possible. Steve will agree with me when I say that it felt great to be an American, and even greater for being a former American Soldier. The experience was humbling.

So many other things to list here, like seeing my favorite artist's work. Rembrandt, Corot, Homer, Manet, Monet, Van Gogh, and many, many, more. The Spirit of St. Lewis, the lunar landing module, all those beautiful monuments, the Capitol, the White House, just to name a few. Steve and I had lunch at a place where the locals go, and it turned out, though we did not know it at the time, to be right next door to the building where President Lincoln died—right across the street from Ford's Theater. Amazing!

Jim May, Treasure of the Triple Deuce, Inc., and Quartermaster of the 22nd I.R.S., tells us that we made a haul at the sales desk. We thank the members very much for that support. All the profit made goes to things like a lending program for members short of cash around reunion time, financial help for those hit by disaster, (though we wish we could do much, much more in this area—got any ideas? Drop us a line.), and most important, reunion beer. Hahaha! Seriously, it's your money; please help guide us in its use. Thanks again Brothers.

Congratulations to all honored as Distinguished Members of The Vietnam Triple Deuce. I do not have the list right in front of me, but it will be published elsewhere. I wanted to say a word about the award...

Distinguished Member Award

The Board of Directors and Officers of the VN 222, wanted to honor certain individuals in a similar manner to the way that the 22nd IRS, and other veteran societies do. Our first awards were to go to those that did the hard work getting the VN 222 off the ground as a society, which was to be within a parent society, the 22nd IRS. Whew! Imagine the negotiations involved with that. We also wanted to honor locators for the work they have done in finding our buddies. It is, by far, the toughest duty a veteran of serious combat can do. They do everything from running into dead-end after dead-end, to talking with surviving family members of our fallen Brothers, as well as thousands of phone calls, letters, and emails that need to be sent and followed-up on, personal expenses skyrocket, and much more. It was easy for us to decide that our Locators deserve the highest award that our membership can bestow.

To the men that are truly men of 'Deeds, not Words', congratulations to all.

All in all it was quite a trip and a great reunion topped it off. Lifelong memories were gained, as well as a renewed patriotism and love for my country. The trip reminded me that there has been way more good done by the formation of our country than all the negative crap the media puts out about us. Maybe they need to be reminded that they are only free to write and talk about that negativism because of the vision of our founding fathers and all the blood and pain that our soldiers endured to make that vision a reality. I should never forget myself, and never take our freedom for granted. The trip reminded me that freedom is not free. I hope I never forget that fact for one single minute.

Seattle WA Reunion 2009

Plans are in the hopper for a Pacific NW 22nd IRS Reunion near Seattle WA (SeaTac Airport area.). We hope to show the membership the beauty of our part of the country, as well as our hospitality. On top of that, I hope that members find it interesting to visit the last place that the 1/22, 2/22, 3/22, served together during Infantry training at Fort Lewis WA, (nearby SeaTac as well.) in 1966. Upon shipping out on a couple of USNS Nelson M. Walker trips, the 22nd Infantry Regiment has been split up, as it is today. It's sort of a re-uniting of the three 22nd Infantry Regiments again. The Army won't apparently do it.

As soon as I get some details I will post them with Dan Streit, our newsletter editor along with his wife Vera. They are doing a terrific job and if you agree with me please let them know by sending in a quick note for the NL, or better yet, an article. We don't care if you are not an English professor--in fact, just the opposite. Your thoughts about what happened across the pond, in your own words, are very important to us all. Your history is ours too. Please share it. We can help you with proof reading if you need it, (Vera, please check me out too! Hahaha! I ain't bees so good at it meself.)

Charlie Co. Originals Mini-Reunion

We will be holding our CBOs Mini-Reunion August 2, 2008 at the Centralia (WA) Eagles Lodge, the same place we held it last year. Please RSVP to Nick and Pam Docsanes at pam.46@comcast.net, or by phone at 360-736-3552.

While this is my particular group, I want to take this opportunity to encourage all Triple Deucers to start mini-reunion type groups themselves. All it takes is a few phone calls encouraging people to make a few more phone calls and before you know it you'll have quite a memorable event lined up.

These smaller, more personal groups allow Combat Brothers that actually served side-by-side to get something very positive in their lives that is difficult to attain at larger reunions. A reunion like the wonderful 22nd IRS reunion offers history on a regimental or division level, a chance to meet new people and see the sights of the city that the reunion is held in, and a bonding with Combat Brothers from WWII through Iraq—a big event with plenty of action and fun, to say the least. But a more intimate reunion can be had by all with a mini-reunion type format. This is the time we can help each other with our memories, the ones that we share together, along with the fuzzy ones we would like sharpened up. It also gives us an opportunity to be together without being worried about the strains of combat—to have some fun together.

Another area that I want to encourage our members to consider is to join in on local events that honor those that have fought for our country. In my area, members of the local chapter of the 25th Infantry Division Veterans attended a Memorial Day event at the Vietnam Memorial in Portland Oregon. We placed a wreath in the shape and color of the 25th Inf. Div. patch by the section of the memorial that honors our MIA's. I had the honor, along with **Rich Miller**, of being a rifleman honor guard. **Gary Hartt** carried the 25th Division colors, and **Larry Mason** carried our 22nd Inf. Regimental colors. It makes a guy feel so darn good to do something like this that I must encourage others to do the same thing in their areas. We will never forget, and neither will we allow others to forget those that lost their lives for our country if we can help it. We feel like stand-ins for those left behind and we can feel their appreciation

for us doing so.

I'll bring this article to a close with a final "**Thank you 22nd IRS Reunion Committee**". You gave me the time of my life, and you certainly live up to our motto...

Deeds, not Words.

Lynn Dalpez C Co. 65-67
V.P. Vietnam Triple Deuce, Inc.

BURT, 1968

My Remembrance

My remembrance of Burt, 1968 has been helped by Recon's **Larry Heinemann's** book *Close Quarters* and Recon's **Bob Rossow's** diary he has shared with me. My account is as accurate and as complete as my mind allows it to be.

As I recall, Recon platoon (10 Armored Personnel Carriers [APCs] and 40 some men) were pretty close to the last to close Fire Support Base Burt. We were blowing mines that had been marked by the engineers. It was a scary trip down the dirt road with vegetation coming right up to the tracks; you couldn't see much. Some of my guys said they could smell the North Vietnamese Army [NVA]; they were that close. But, they let us pass.

Recon's ten tracks were the reaction force for Burt. We were laagered inside the perimeter held by 2-22 and 3-22. We were near the road that split the base. The artillery was also set up inside the laager along with the command group.

Early in the evening, some of my men who came from Wisconsin (as did I) and I were playing in my track a German card game called "sheepshead," celebrating the Packers' "Ice Bowl" win over the Cowboys that we had heard on the Armed Forces Radio Network. Some of my other men who hailed from Indiana were cheering on their team playing Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl.

That's when we heard the familiar "pop, pop, pop" of incoming mortars. Everyone headed for his own track and waited to see what was up.

After a short time, Recon was asked to send a section (four APCs) to the northern part of the laager to reinforce what appeared to be the spot of the main NVA attack. The section became "op con" to B Company, and I lost contact with them for the rest of the night.

Not too long after, we got a call to reinforce C Company on the southern part of the perimeter because it now appeared the main attack was coming in from the south. The perimeter was in danger of being overrun.

One of Recon's tracks pulled alongside a burning C Company APC and was hit by RPGs. The driver, **Houston Box**, could not get out and our guys couldn't get him out. The track burned and exploded most of the night. All the machine guns on our APCs (.50s and M-60s) fired like crazy. The .50 barrels sagged. We poured oil over them to cool them. We changed barrels. And some of the rounds still tumbled out. The quad-50 on the southern perimeter was also having trouble with its barrels.

Soon after we pulled up in platoon sergeant SSG **Raymond I. Russler's** track, an RPG exploded to our right front. Ray and I were standing next to each other in the back hatch; he was hit; I wasn't touched. He left to be treated by the medics.

I found my track in a hole and I got in the back hatch and bent down to make a call on the radio to Charlie 6 (CPT **Bill Allison**). Two of my guys were setting up an M-60 about five feet from me and got hit by an RPG. They were sent to the medics. If I would have been standing up, I would have had no head.

During the night, I found my way to Charlie 6's track and we discussed things for a few minutes. I remember 175 and 8 inch rounds coming into the area on a continual basis. I saw napalm and "bouncing Betty" type bombs dropped by Air Force jets into the woods just in front of our position. I remember Specter and its beautiful display of tracer rounds coming to earth in those same woods.

Somewhere along the line that night, I hooked up with one of my "Charlies" [in Recon, the call sign for a track commander was "Tango," a driver was "Delta," and a recon scout was "Charlie"] Bob Rossow. He was "Six-niner Charlie." The Duster (twin 40s) that was sent to help plug the hole in the southern perimeter was hit by RPGs before it got into position. Rossow thought someone was caught in the Duster, jumped up on the burning vehicle highlighting himself, got grazed by an AK-47 round, but found no one inside.

Later, helicopters brought in artillery rounds for resupply and dropped them on the road that bisected the laager. Bob and I went onto the road and helped pull those rounds to the artillery guns. The next day we tried to move some of those full boxes and couldn't budge them. What adrenalin can do!

On the way back to our position from the artillery, Bob and I sat down on a pile of dirt and took a short break. Somehow, he had gotten hold of two cans of beer. We chatted about what we were planning to do after the war, drank the beer, and went back to the fight.

Sometime during the night, we got the order to close up our APCs and take cover because the artillery was going to "direct fire" bee-hive rounds. Turns out, one of my guys was buttoned up in the cupola of his track when the rounds were fired. One of the flechettes got into the APC and was imbedded in the back of his neck. It caused no serious damage.

When dawn started to break, the smell of sulfur was overwhelming and the haze of smoke and mist filled the trees that had been stripped of leaves and branches. Dozens and dozens of dead NVA were lying just on the other side of our defensive berm and extended hundreds of yards along the road. Some of them had nothing above their bottom row of teeth. Others were in various stages of mutilation from being hit by artillery and infantry weapons. The massive, common grave was filled with hundreds and hundreds of NVA during the next couple of days.

Recon suffered one killed and 13 wounded.

**Erik Opsahl A/
HHC, Recon 67- 68
Fullback Romeo 6**

5/27/68

My Memory

My memory of 5/27/68 is really fuzzy about the whole day but what I do remember was really clear. If my memory serves me correct we were headed for Nu Ba Din to pull security at the base of the mountain. Some of the guys had told me the night before that this would be easy security. Sit on our a***** and get a break from breaking jungle and ants in our pants (another story).

That morning when we pulled out we were told to run tight and track close. Tracking was where we drove in the tracks of the APC in front of you and if the front APC made it thru then the ones behind were usually OK too. It was hot and dusty on that little dirt road and we were running at a good clip, with 50 Cal. machineguns pointed to the sides. I was a little nervous because we had lost some good men including drivers in the past 5 months.

I was driving the 21 Track and looking straight ahead, when all of a sudden there was a big BOOM and the rear end of the 23 track went straight up in the air with people, dirt, dust and equipment going everywhere. My first thought was we were being hit by a RPG attack. But later confirmed it was a hand detonated landmine and had gone off in the rear of the track.

Before the dust settled where you could see, I heard a M60 raising hell and I saw **Clark Lohmann** standing there like Rambo lighting up the tree line. Clark always carried a M60 with a short belt of about 50 rounds folded over the top ready to go wrapped in a green towel just in case. Then someone took him down screaming Medic and I knew someone was hurt bad. Being a driver and sitting where I was, I could not see everything that was happening. I don't remember any return fire, so that meant Charlie was probably gone. Security was sent out and a dust off was called in. I could hear all of this over the Lts radio.

A LZ for the medavac chopper was setup on my right with smoke and in a few minutes 4 guys were loaded and gone. Clark Lohmann, Bob Price, Ed

Lara, Don't remember the 4th person. In situations like this minutes turn into eternity. Adrenalin was pumping at 100 miles an hour and nerves were on razors edge. We had guys hurt and I wanted to shoot something. But being a driver I had to set tight and wait in the driver's seat till the all clear came.

The 22 track was in front of the 23 and he backed up and put tow cables on the 23. The hole behind the 23 was deep enough to bury a Volkswagen in it upside down. We towed the 23 to our next campsite and was later stripped and blown in place. We used it online for a while with a 50 cal as security.

If my memory serves me right we stayed at the latrine pit and did road security for about a month.

In 1989 I met a man in Birmingham Al. who was Special Forces on top of the mountain and was wounded by friendly fire from below. I was the only person whom he had talked to that admitted of being there in May of 1968. He was wounded by a 50 Cal. When I told him I had been at Nui Ba Den in May of 68 he punched me in the nose and said you shot me. Took a (6 pack) while to calm him down and get the whole story straight and we became good friends. But still today he will tell everyone who will listen that I shot him with a 50 Cal in Nam.

I don't know if what I remember is totally correct, but it is what I remember and the same story I have told for years. If anyone has any fact and figures to add or subtract feel free to do so.

From the Archives of My Mind

Larry S Watson B/ 67-68

Many times during the reunion individuals came to me with comments about or suggestions for the Newsletter. We sincerely appreciate all input. Just a reminder that the newsletter is for and about you. Sharing of your memories and thoughts is what makes it an appropriate endeavor for the Triple Deuce.

FMV of PURPLHEART=\$50, an ORA=\$70 but not scientific

I have wanted to tell this story for some time. My wife Scarlett was bugging me to get a newer Jeep Grand Cherokee as hers had high mileage. So about 4 months ago, my son Brett and I looked and found a good one with low miles being sold by a young man, Jason, who was moving to Panama. We haggled over the price and there was a difference of \$100, which we agreed to split. So I was to write him a check for \$5550. I had to come back the next day because I wanted my son to look at it and I needed a 2nd driver and the seller had to get the title. Jason is about 35 years old and as we exchanged pleasantries the next day, he noticed my other jeep with the Purple Heart license plate. He told me to cut \$50 off the price, because of the Purple Heart. After some confusion by me, I was flabbergasted and humbly complied at his insistence. The next day I had to call him with a question about the vehicle and during the course of the phone talk, he mentioned that his mother thought he was foolish for taking the \$50 off for the Purple Heart. I proceeded to tell him it was the first time anyone had given me any recognition for the PH and his act meant a lot more to me than mere money. As he was living at his parents home, temporarily, I had the mother's phone no. and called her several weeks after he had left for Panama and told her the same thing I had told Jason and she should be extremely proud of him. So I guess the value of a PH is \$50.

In the greater Portland, Oregon area, we have a group of about 30 active 25th ID Vietnam vets. We started this group around 2005 and have flags for most regiments and also a 25th ID flag, MIA flag and US flag. We do the usual Vets Day and Memorial Day things and also in Vancouver, Washington an MIA/POW Day in September. In 2006, it was a Friday and we chipped in for a nice 25th ID wreath to present at the MIA/POW ceremony. Also on the next day, we participated in the Oregon memorial service for our combat brother **Joe Deitz**. Linda Burdick, our group's treasurer and wife of Joe Burdick (1/5Mech) suggested that I take the wreath with me to the memorial service. We had the wreath and

did our color guard entrance and exit honoring Joe Deitz as part of the memorial service. I was proud of our group as we had about 15 guys of which probably 9 did not even know Joe Deitz and several took time off from work to attend.

Previously, one of the 25th guys, Willie Ginn invited my wife and me to their Manchu Reunion Banquet that Saturday night. It was located at Jantzen Beach in the Northern most part of Portland, so my wife and I were unable to return home and went straight to the Reunion from the memorial service. I had worn my ORA to the Joe Deitz afternoon service and kind of forgot I had it on. I also took the 25ID wreath to the Reunion banquet for its 3rd unplanned use.

When I brought the wreath in and up to the podium, I got looks from some of the people. I went to my assigned table with Willie Ginn and his wife said to me, "You just became an instant friend to all these guys." After the dinner, the Manchus' have an oral auction as this is one of their chief fundraising events. I got caught up in the spirit of things and went up to the mike and donated my ORA for their auction and explained about it being a grunts' award and about the ant bites and certificate. After some spirited bidding, it went for \$70 and when I presented to the guy who had the winning bid, he said to me. "No, I can't take it because I was in base camp most of my time, give it to my friend, he got bit by those ants a lot in the jungle". About a week later, I had mailed the certificate to the guy in Texas. When he received it, he called me and thanked me. He was a combat medic with the Manchu company that had 49 KIA at the HOC MINH BRIDGE. I could not think of a more deserving recipient and told him so. So for me, a PH is worth \$50 and an ORA \$70. But both experiences are forever etched in my memory and are definitely PRICELESS.

I really do not know how to explain in words how I feel about my fellow Vietnam combat veterans, but maybe because of the shabby and (or) horrible treatment we all received from the general public after our tour, we are more sensitive and respectful. The one word I associate with you guys is ADMIRATION. A phrase that I have not used in awhile, but needs to be repeated WELCOME HOME AND THANKS FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY

GARY HARTT A/65-69

MEMORIAL DAY AT THE OREGON VIETNAM MEMORIAL

WE HAD A GREAT DAY AT THE MEMORIAL CEREMONY. While the weather was overcast with some Oregon 'mist' and the result was no military flyover, however, we did not get soaked like some of our past Veterans Day parades. The addition of our rifle carriers to our color guard looked great. **Lynn Dalpez** and **Rich Miller** (both C/2/22) looked really sharp in their Helmets and M-16 rifles. Jerry Peal C/1/5 did an outstanding job as our drill sergeant and directed us in the proper military protocol. Our Portland 25th group looked sharp in our uniforms and flags. Karl Karlgard B/2/27 brought and carried the memorial wreath that was really beautiful. In spite of the weather we had a great turnout and met some new members. I will try and give a list of all other attendees (Sorry for those I miss mentioning). First my friend and fellow combat vet of A/2/22, Arty officer FO **Paige Lainer**, wife, daughter, son-in-law and grandsons, Paige was visiting his daughter from Colorado Springs), Jim Kessi A/3/22 and his lovely sister Georgia, John Hopkins D/2/14, TOP Roberto Fortuno B/1/14, Larry Mason C/2/22, Fred Watson & grandson B/3/8 4th ID, Vinh Nguyen 25th ARVN, David Watson B&D 2/27, Gary Trapman 2/14, Bill Riggs 2/12, Dan Radke, Scarlett Hartt, Chris Miller, and our friends and combat brothers of the Air Cav Div.

Jerry Peal had his boots at a high shine but all present felt Lynn Dalpez's boots looked like a bright mirror and was the best pair present. Gary Hartt secretly thought to himself ("I always hated the spit and polish of the US Army stuff and inspections. I would love to take sandpaper or scuff all shined boots")

Gary Hartt A65-

67

Died At Home

Gary Krek died 3-29-08
HHC, Recon Platoon, 4thID & 25ID, Sep66 to Sep.67
Per his sister-in-law Carolyn Krek

Robert "Gary" Krek passed away March 29, 2008 after a courageous battle with cancer. Gary was born September 22, 1947 to Robert Jacob and Donna (Hjerpe) Krek and was a native of Phoenix. Gary was a Vietnam vet assigned to the HHC, Recon Platoon, 4thID & 25ID, Sep66 to Sep.67

Gary retired from the Air National Guard where he managed the Mechanical Heating and Air Conditioning Shops. He also designed AC systems for buildings throughout the US, Guam and Central America. He was an active member of the 4th Infantry Division Association. After the 22nd Infantry Regiment Society was reorganized in 1995, he volunteered to be the Webmaster for the Society Page. He made this web page, <http://www.22ndinfantry.org> into one of the outstanding sites on the World Wide Web.

In 2001, Gary was named a Distinguished Member of the 22nd Infantry Regiment by order of the Secretary of the Army. His other awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge and several other Vietnam service ribbons.

Gary is survived by his wife, Patricia, son Robert Bryan, daughter Sharie, his parents, brother Jeffrey (Carolyn), his grandchildren Jordin, Corina, Taylor, Corey, Michael and Joseph.

. Published in The Arizona Republic from 4/2/2008 - 4/3/2008.

William Matz

A Co.&HHC, 4th ID/ 65/67

Gordon Christian Olson A Co, 25th ID, died in 2006

Gary Hartt A/65-67

Timothy La Warre died Jan 9,2008

Lonnie Hart and Danny Hoar of A/2/22 informed me of his passing

Tim La Warre was drafted from Lima, Ohio, in Dec 65. He was part of the original contingent of FT Lewis draftees in the 3rd Brigade and did Basic in the 2nd platoon of A/2/22. Because of some back or foot problems, he was later transferred to HHC of 2/22 and had an MOS of 63A. His brother, Ned, said

New Finds

he spent most of his time in the field and vividly remembered Operation Attleboro where his good friend **Lonnie Hart** lost an arm and leg. Per his brother he never talked about Vietnam and only spoke about it in the last several years. Tim was a successful corporate salesman for many years

He died of leukemia, but had also had prior problems with liver failure and colon cancer. He died in Cocoa, Florida and is buried in Bushnell Cemetery (same place as Joe Deitz)

Gary Hartt A/65-67

John 'Pete' Cresong

B Co. 25th, ID, Aug.67 to Apr. 68

A note from Pete's widow

Thank you so much for your kind words. It was truly a shock for us to loose Pete so quickly. Our family will greatly miss him, we loved him so much. Our consolation is that we are assured he is in the presence of our Lord, rejoicing with so many loved ones. Again thank you . My son and I will continue to try to attend the reunions, which Pete loved so much. Sorry you didn't make it to DC it was wonderful and Pete was so glad to see some buddies who had not attended before. Hope to see you again. **Diana Cresong**

May 29, 2008....I spent some time talking with Diana, Pete Cresong's wife, today. She wishes to express her thanks for all the concern shown by the Triple Deuce and guys. Diana and her son Jonathan wish to continue receiving the newsletter and hope to come to the reunions. Diana and Jonathan, you will always have a special place at our table.

Diana has also given the Triple Deuce the right to copy and give out the Red Ant CD that was written, produced, and recorded by her family (a very musical family). The cadence at the end is done by Pete.

Pete took a piece of all of us with him when he died but, more importantly, he left a part of himself with each of us. Thank you, Pete, for the time that we did have to share with you!

Dean Springer B/67-68

James E. Bristol

P.O. Box 4675
Pinehurst, NC 28374
910-690-4369

B Co. & HHC, 4th & 25th ID, Nov. 67 to Nov. 67

Kenneth R. House

21496 Main St.
Shade Gap, PA 17255
814-259-3393

kenh33@gmail.com

Recon Platoon 4th & 25th ID, Aug.66 to Aug. 67

Comments: Ken would like to find **Paul Pederson, Scotty Wilfong, Nick Walsh** and **Fred Pope Martin**. Ken writes, "I was very happy to get a call from the past. I'm looking forward to the reunion and seeing some old but not forgotten buddies."

David W. McCall

238 Sandy Branch Rd.
Balsam Grove, NC 28708
282-862-8855

B Co. 25th ID, Sep. 68 to Sep. 69

Comments: David writes, "I received my first news letter and knew people who's names were in articles. It was good to hear about old friends, but it was very emotional for me."

Billy Payton

221 Maple St.
Trion, GA 30753
706-734-3547

bpayton@alltel.net

HHC 25th ID, Mar 67 to Mar 68

Gary L. Smith

1319 Starling Lane
Lewisville, TX 75077
972-966-0693

garylsmith@verizon.net

B Co. 25th ID, 1967 to 1968

Terry E. Thornton Sr.
P.O. Box 182
South New Berlin, NY 13843
607-859-2401
thornton7277@yahoo.com
A Co. 4th ID, 66 to 67

Kenneth H. Allen
5700 Lochmoor Drive #70
Riverside, CA 92507
951-682-3348
knaln@dslextreme.com
C Co. 25th ID, Aug. 67 to Aug.68
Comments: Ken writes, "Looking forward to the future."

William S. Donald
Ipostal Box 88
LaAsuncion, Neuva Esparta, Venezuela, Skyp 810-515-7293
wsdonald2003@yahoo.com
B Co. 25th ID, Sep. 67 to Aug. 68

Bennett N. Anderson, Sr.
11 Sussex Dr.
Lewis, DE 19958
302-645-8556
Anderson@dmv.com
A Co., 25th ID, Mar. 68 to Apr. 69

William P. Conger
2423 Poe Ln.
Petersburg, VA 23803
804-862-3835
B Co. 25th ID, 67, Was wounded 11/67

Jim Devlin
4431 Richmond St.
Philadelphia, PA 19137
215-744-8882
jimdevlin@verizon.net
C Co. 25th ID, Feb. 70 to Apr. 70

Kenneth Gengler
18100 Stuart Rd.
Chesaning, MI 48616
989-845-2583
A Co. 4th & 25th ID, Sep. 66 to Sep.67

Jerry Anderson
3 Aspen Court
Fairbault, MN 55021
507-332-2557
jerry.and99@yahoo.com
HHC, 25th ID, 12-68 to 12-69

Comments: Jerry writes, "Not too good on remembering names. Do remember **Barber**(nickname) and **Nard Cassaboon**. Looking for any guys who were at Fire Base Wood in 69. Escorting convoys and sweeping roads for mines from Wood to Cu Chi, Tay Ninh and Dau Tieng."

Hellos & Comments

Bill Noyes
1035 Hazel Ave.
Campbell, CA 95008
408-374-1541
trplducer@aol.com
B Co. 25th ID, Sep. 68 to Sep. 69

Comments: Bill would like to find **Arthur Harp**, **Shorty Larry** and **Joe Kempt**.

Edward M. Fagan Jr.
155 W. 68th St. # 1817
New York NY. 10023-5824
212-799-7014
fermink@nyc.rr.com
C Co. 4th ID, 1966 to 1967

Comments: Ed would like to locate **Jimmy Kelly**.

Claude I. Davidson
111 N. Chapel Rd.
Hollister, CA. 95023
831-637-4952
B Co. 25th ID, 2nd Platoon 67-68

Comments: Claude would like to hear from all of his Bravo Brothers.

Guest Books Hits

Name: **Lynn Dalpez**
email: dalpezc222@yahoo.com
Date: 3/21/2008

Comments: Today marks the 41st anniversary of the Battle of Soui Tre. I can't help but think of that day today, and how lucky I was to face that day with my brave Brothers of the Triple Deuce. You all helped me to do my part then, and are helping me to deal with those memories today. Wear your Presidential Unit Citations with pride, and forgive those that placed us there, as well as our former enemy who suffered greatly at our hands. Forgive, but never forget, as if you could forget. It was pay-back time that day. Leave it at that.

Name: **Salvador H. Gutierrez (Shorty)**
email: hgutierrez@gilanet.com
Date: 4/68-4/69

Comments:

Great website I enjoyed it very much, keep it up. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support in Nam. I served with Bravo co.3-22-25TH.

Name: **Jim Devlin**
email: jimdevlin@verizon.net
phone: 215-744-8882

Comments: I signed up for the reunion in Washington served with C 222 Jan 70 to April 70 hope to see others from same time period. I was a Sgt who came over from the 1st Inf Div.

Name: **Sgt. Mikie Pectol**
email: focus11c@netscape.com
Date: 03/30/2008

Comments: It is with deep and profound sorrow for his family, and for us, who have lost a Brother in Arms to his final Muster with the "General in the Sky" I notify you of the passing of Gary Krek. Last night, March 29, 2008. I wanted to make sure you had the opportunity to join me in expressing sympathy and the love of the Brotherhood to his family and friends and us. And of course, these few are but a FEW of those who would likely want to know and have such an opportunity, so I respectfully ask you to "PASS THE WORD" A Salute to MSG Retired ROBERT GARY KREK, 2d Bn, 22ND INF. VN. BLESS YOU ALL, BROTHERS IN ARM Sgt. Mikie Pectol, H-2d Bn, 77FA, 4th and 25th Divs, VN, 67 – 68

Name: **Mark Zetter**
email: mzbrickman@hotmail.com
Date: 4/3/2008

Comments: Looking for any info like an email address for **Henry Smith** of PA. We served with the Triple Deuce Feb 1970 to Nov 1970. He was my squad leader and we were good friends. If you see this Smitty, email me. Remember April 1970 when we blew that bush and got nine of them. It's been 38 years. Can't hardly believe it. I still can't get it out of my head any more than all the other things we went through. "Zipper"

Name: **James E. Anderson**
email: janderson@midrivers.com
Date: 04082008

Comments: I served in Vietnam from March 69 to March 70 with Charlie Co.

Name: **Wm. Skip Brockner**
email: skip75686@aol.com
Date: 04/22/2008
phone: 856-854-4603

I was in the 2-47th Mech Inf and D Troop, 17th Armor Cav, 199th LIB in 1967. Track Mechanic in the field. Just stopping by to say Hi and admire your site.

Name: **Gary Hartt**
email: gchartt@bctonline.com
Date: 05/09/2008

Comments: Basecamp 222 is located at 132 South Cedar St in South Pittsburg, TN. 37380. Bar phone 423-837-6335. It is a very friendly pro Vet place filled with memorabilia. Suggest you call ahead to time your visit when Dwight, Bruce or Mike will be there.

Name: **Gary Hartt**
email: gchartt@bctonline.com
Date: 05/09/2008

Comments: I would like to thank that entire helped make the DC reunion another enjoyable and great reunion event.

Name: **Chuck Weidner**
Email: weidner@slac.stanford.edu
Date: 4-5-08
Phone: 510-537-2732

Comments: Thanks guys I had great time.

Name: **Clarence"CJ" Simpson**
email: cacie1@optonline.net
Date: 05/17/08

Comments: Wonderful, great, fantastic, overwhelming. I will never get over seeing my brothers last week. Especially **Chaplin Tobin**. Great feeling. See you in Seattle. Maybe we can do drill and ceremony in the quad for a few hours.

Name: **Bruce Sewall**
Email: bgs7038@netscape.net
Date: 05-22-08
phone: 845-427-7094

Comments: had great time at reunion...1st one but not the last.

Special thanks to **Brad Hull** for a very warm welcome to my wife and I made some new friends. Every member there was warm and friendly. Thanks guys in Nam we were family, and best of all we still are. Missed saying good-bye to the brother who gave us the \$2.00 bills for our kids...They love them. And the brother from Denver, hope all your winters are mild. You were both really nice guys and we'll be thinking of you in the future. And for **Col.Goldsmith** who was in Nam, wanted to say thanks for a great job you did for us, the line company's with the Triple Deuce. You were a great example of "DEEDS NOT WORDS". Hope we can make Seattle.

Name: **Dick Nash**
Email: nash222@frontiernet.net
Date: 05/22/2008
phone: 309 537 3536

Comments: Just a note to wish all who read this a great Memorial Day weekend. It's one of the days when we have plenty of company remembering the price of freedom. Enjoy it if you can.

Name: **Gary Hartt**
Email: gchartt@bctonline.com
Date: 05/22/2008
Phone: 503-632-6955

Comments: I share Dick Nash's sentiment and hope everyone has a safe and Happy Memorial Day weekend. Please take time to remember our fallen brothers. In Oregon, on Saturday some of our Portland 251D group will help **Larry Mason** C-2-22 celebrate his 40th Wedding Anniversary. Then on Monday, our group gathers at the beautiful Oregon Vietnam Memorial to honor the 800 plus Oregon KIAs, including **George Holladay** of Coos Bay(KIA 7-15-67) I have the privilege of reading some 22 names that includes George Holladay. After the names are read, we march-walk with our flags and present a wreath in their honor. After the conclusion of the memorial service, we gather for a lunch. **Paige Lanier**, our 1st Arty officer-FO(with A-2-22) and his family happens to be in the Portland area and will join us. PS **CJ Simpson** while you are marching in the Quad next year in Seattle, I and the other guys will sit in lawn chairs, beer in hand, watching and trying not to laugh out loud. HA HA

Name: Lynn Dalpez
Email: dalpezc222@yahoo.com
Date: 05/23/2008

Comments: A Memorial Day greeting to the members of The Vietnam Triple Deuce. A day to remember our fallen Brothers of all wars, and of course, those that we knew ourselves. Following the DC reunion will make this a very special Memorial Day for me. I hope it does the same for you too. God bless you all.

Name: **Kay Ingram**
Email: ingramk@wincowifi.com
Date: 05/24/2008
Phone: (217)248-6457

Comments: Wanted to wish you all a great Memorial Day weekend. My sisters and I had a wonderful time in D.C. It was an experience we will always remember. Thank you for making us feel so welcome. God Bless.

Name: **Mario Salazar**
Email: mariosalazar@comcast.net
Date: 5/25/08
Phone: (240) 498-2763

Comments: Had a great time in DC. We had the most attendance since I have been going to reunions. Missed some of you, but hope you will make the next one.

(Please join our yahoo group at VN2-22Mz@yahoogroups.com)

Name: **Allan Bridge**
Email: bridgea@bellsouth.net
Date: 5/26/08
Phone: 772-878-6867

Comments: I want to thank anyone who had a hand in the D.C. reunion; this was my first and surely not my last. Seeing and putting a big bear hug on old buddies was the experience of my life. My wife (Donna) and I had a great time. I'm headed to memorial services at our veterans' park shortly and will proudly wear Triple Deuce shirt and hat. My ORA will also be around my neck. Thanks and I love all you guys.....

Name **Michael H Pounds**
Email: privatepounds@yahoo.com
Date: 06/03/2008

Comments: Do to the lack of interest I have decided to cancel production of the Tribute - all available copies will be donations only -Thanks

Minutes of the May 2008 2/22 Business Meeting

Dick Nash opened the meeting.

Jim May gave the treasurer's report stating we have total funds in excess of \$27,000, the financial report was audited by **Dave Milewski** and is available upon request. Guidons were purchased and will be available for individual use, user must pay shipping cost. Explanation of the reunion loan program was presented to the membership. Comment from members concerning sending the news-

letter to all dues paying and non-paying members. It was decided to send the June issue to the non-paying members once a year. Discussion of additional light-weight ORA's made available to wear in place of the heavier original medals. Also, ORA's are available to all members to award at any local meetings they may attend.

Dan Streit gave an explanation of the Double Deucer Rate and the resulting confusion between the 22nd IRS and the Triple Deuce Dues. Dues were discussed with various rate requests being explained including a life membership, instead of a life membership we may utilize a ten year rate. Dan made a request for members to submit articles to be included in upcoming newsletters.

Mario Salazar discussed the website and Steve Irvine requested feed-back on the web site and to submit pictures to be used. Future website usage was explained with the ability to order merchandise and pay dues upcoming. Mario requested any information regarding Soutre 3/21/67

Dick Nash requested from the members a nomination for elected officers. A motion was made to close the nomination with the existing officers remaining intact. A membership vote was taken which passed unanimously, board of elected officers remains intact.

Jim May gave an explanation of Triple Deuce awards used to give special recognition to individual members and then made the presentations.

John Eberwine read aloud a special message to the members.

Jerry Rudisell requested all members stand and introduce themselves to the membership.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Joe Esser A 60/70
2/22 Secretary

